

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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R 030950Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1947

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSN LPGEYO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSITEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ON RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, SOVIET UNION,
FUTURE OF ISRAEL

1. THE LATEST IN SERIES OF INTERVIEWS QADHAFI HAS BEEN
GIVING TO BEIRUT PRESS APPEARS IN HIS BEIRUT DAILY AS-SAFIR
OF JAN. 31, WHICH IS REGULARLY ON SALE IN TRIPOLI. IT IS
WORTH SOME ATTENTION. ACCORDING TO AS-SAFIR, QADHAFI
SPOKE IN EARLY JAN, BUT PUBLICATION WAS DELAYED WHILE
PAPER SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GIVE SADAT RIGHT OF REPLY.
INSTRUCTION TO PRINT IT NOW MUST HAVE COME FROM TRIPOLI.

2. INTERVIEW SHOWS QADHAFI AT HIS MOST TRUCULENT AND
ARROGANT, WITH ALL HIS AMBITIONS TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN
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EGYPT INTACT. EGYPTIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DRUGGED INTO

TAKING DEFEAT FOR VICTORY, AND THEY ARE JUST NOW BEGINNING TO WAKE UP. HE DISCLAIMS INTENTION TO OVERTHROW SADAT, ALTHOUGH HE IMPLIES HE WOULD HAVE NO HESITATION TRYING TO DO SO IN CASE OF ANOTHER ARAB REGIME. IN FACT HE SUPPORTS SADAT, WHO HAS BEEN MISLED BY HIS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND WHO IS UNDER U.S. AND SAUDI PRESSURE. HE HAS NOT "LOST HOPE IN PRESIDENT SADAT PERSONALLY". AT SAME TIME HE IS DOUBTFUL ABOUT GIVING SADAT THE ECONOMIC AID HE NEEDS, SINCE THIS WOULD HELP HIM STAY IN POWER. THE SOLUTION TO ALL PROBLEMS IS ARAB UNITY. ONLY UNITY WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ISRAEL HAS NO PLACE IN REGION.

3. ON SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS, QADHAFI IS WARY BUT OPTIMISTIC: "OUR RELATIONS ARE GOOD AND CONTINUOUSLY DEVELOPING. WE MUST UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER MORE, AND DEFINE THE CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONS AND THEIR EXTENT. IT IS CERTAIN THAT SUMMIT BETWEEN US AND SOVIETS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES." UNNAMED PERSONS WHO VISITED SOVIET UNION RECENTLY (PROBABLY ARAFAT AND COMPANY) CAME BACK WITH IMPRESSION, ACCORDING TO QADHAFI, THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS DEBATING FUTURE OF ISRAEL. "OUTSIDE MOSCOW" (WHATEVER THIS MEANS) SOME PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT ISRAEL WAS DOOMED HISTORICALLY, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, "TWENTY YEARS, OR FIFTY YEARS". (JOURNALIST WHO CONDUCTED INTERVIEW ADDS THAT HE LEARNED FROM QADHAFI THAT HIS "CONTACTS WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP" HAD ENDED WITH AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" FOR BREZHNEV TO STOP IN LIBYA ON HIS WAY TO ALGERIA "IN MARCH".)

4. COMMENT: QADHAFI LEAVES NO DOUBT AS TO HIS INTENTIONS. HE WILL USE EVERY BIT OF LEVERAGE HE HAS, INCLUDING SOVIET ARMS IN HIS POSSESSION OR ON ORDER AND LURE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TO OBSTRUCT EGYPTIAN MOVES TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. DESPITE HIS REVERSES, HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEARNED NOTHING AND FORGOTTEN NOTHING, AND TO BE DETERMINED TO FOLLOW HIS EXTREME LINE TO THE END, WITH WHATEVER REJECTIONIST COMPANY HE CAN FIND.
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